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Young Pals Evaluation Report 2006-08

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1. Introduction

Martin Manby and Claire Fraser are researchers at the Nationwide Children’s Research Centre, based in Huddersfield. Those involved in the evaluation will probably have seen them at Fusion sessions. Also behind the scenes the report was supported by Kiara Lewis from Huddersfield University.

They were all set the challenge to find out:

1. What children and young people think of Young PALS
2. What parents think of Young PALS
3. Finally does Young PALS work?! Does Young PALS help children and young people to get active and feel better about themselves?

3. Facts and figures

- 72% of Young PALS increased their self-esteem
- Almost 50% of Young PALS increased their range of physical activities
- 60% of Young PALS became more active after they joined the scheme
- 57% of Young PALS decreased their BMI after being more active and eating healthier

What the parents told us:

- “My son and daughter both enjoy Young PALS. They’re all eager, ready and waiting.”
- “I was relieved that there was such a thing where they could come and they’d be treated equally regardless of their size or their issues; to know that there was someone there that could help.”
- “I have made more friends. I was slow at running and now I can run faster.”
- “The aim (of Young PALS) is to... lose weight, do more activities. It’s fun, energetic, it tires you out, and it’s healthy.”
- “I’ve got more fit. I eat less and I’m just more active.”

What the Young PALS told us:

- “The Young PALS would like to thank everyone who took part in the evaluation.”

2. How we did it

- Questionnaires were filled in by the Young PALS at their one to one appointments.
- BMI was recorded at 12 week intervals.
- Interviews/focus groups were carried out with Young PALS and parents who attended Fusion sessions to find out their thoughts on the scheme.

4. What happens next?

- We would like to help more children and young people to get more active and have a healthier lifestyle
- To add more activities to our Fusion sessions
- Improve the quality of our delivery and the information you receive
- Focus on what works